



Global Citizenship Seminar 17
*Colleges and Universities: The Path
to Global Citizenship*
July 14 – 21, 2018

General Information

The team of the Global Citizenship Alliance (Alliance) added a new location for convening their participants – Potsdam is the capital of Brandenburg, Germany, and is located right outside Berlin – approximately a 20-30 minute train ride away. It is a city the size of Salzburg, surrounded by the waters of the Havel river and very rich in history. Situated in former East Germany, it combines baroque grandeur and its more recent past. One of its legacies is Prussia's Frederick the Great and his beautiful palace Sanssouci with its famous gardens, but it is also famous for its film studios located in



Potsdam Babelsberg, which were the rival of Hollywood in the early days of movie history and where today many famous movie directors shoot

their films – e.g. Spielberg (Bridge of Spies) and Tarantino. In addition, Potsdam is also a city of science with a lot of world class research institutions based there, like the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research. We are positive that the participants this summer will be enchanted by the beauty and historic splendor of the location. Participants will be housed in the Mercure Hotel Potsdam City across the street from the Old Market on the banks of the Havel river, right by the boat docks.

The Alliance is a new organization with a long history. Since 2004, more than 3,300 students, faculty and administrators of our partner institutions helped us shape and promote our mission which is to make global citizenship the foundation for knowledge and action in the 21st century. What used to be a part of the Salzburg Global Seminar is now its own organization with a lean and enthusiastic staff that has taken this program under its own wings in order to make it an even more effective vehicle for the education of globally literate students.

Jochen Fried and **Astrid Schroeder** are the staff members who will be working on the upcoming Global Citizenship Seminar in July. They are responsible for program development as well as administrative and logistical aspects of the seminar and will be with participants and faculty throughout the week.

Alliance team members are listed at the end of these materials. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have questions concerning your seminar.

All participants should complete and submit the participant information form and email a photo no later than June 20.

Arrival and Departure

The seminar will begin on **July 14** with a reception at 6:00 pm (location tba). Participants should plan to arrive on the 14th. Check-in time is officially 3:00 pm, however in many cases an earlier check-in may be possible. **July 21** is reserved solely for departures.



Check-out time is noon. If you would like to book a room for an earlier arrival or later departure, please contact the Mercure's

Reception team via email (info@mercure-hotel-potsdam.de) or phone (+49 331 2722) to check availability and reserve a room. Please indicate that you are participating in the Global Citizenship Alliance.

Travel to Potsdam

For those traveling to Potsdam via Berlin Tegel Airport, there are train connections to Potsdam. Upon arrival, participants should take either the Bus X9 or Bus 109.



Both buses go to Zoo Station (€2.70 one way). From there, participants should take the RE trains (Regional Express) or the S-Bahn to Potsdam Hauptbahnhof (main station). The Mercure is within walking distance of the main station and is the tallest building in sight. For additional info on public transport from Tegel Airport to Potsdam, please visit this link

[airport transfer](#) There is also a shuttle service that may be the best option for groups [airport shuttle](#) If you have additional questions regarding travel, please contact Astrid Schroeder.

Accommodations

Participants are housed in single rooms in the Mercure Hotel Potsdam City. Electric current in Germany is 220 volts, meaning that you will need a converter and/or adapter in order to use electronic appliances that have a standard American 120 volt plug.

Please be careful with your valuables and do not leave computers, cameras, or similar items unattended in public spaces. Although the venue and Potsdam in general are relatively safe, we are not able to regulate who is passing through the public spaces all the time and therefore recommend that you do not leave valuable personal items unattended in public spaces.

Meals



Breakfast and dinner are served buffet style in the Mercure. *It is important that you let us know in advance on the Bio Information Form if you are a vegetarian or if you*

have any other specific dietary requirements. The kitchen staff at the Mercure can accommodate most requests provided we know about them in advance.

Clothing

Dress at the Seminar is generally informal. Participants are also encouraged to bring a pair of comfortable walking shoes.

The weather in Potsdam tends to be pleasant and warm in the summer. Daytime high temperatures generally average around 28-30 degrees Celsius but any given week can see warmer or cooler temperatures. Participants are encouraged to check the Potsdam/Brandenburg weather forecast shortly before traveling to Potsdam and pack appropriately.

Excursions and Social Activities

There is one free day, except for one morning lecture, for participants to take a self-guided walking tour of Potsdam or enjoy the surrounding areas. Information



regarding various guided tours and excursions can be found at the Reception desk and the Reception team is happy to assist with

bookings. Other social activities include a tour of Sanssouci Palace and gardens.

Seminar Materials Online

After the seminar all participants will receive access to a Dropbox where seminar related materials will be posted. These include powerpoints and other presentation materials (pending approval of each speaker), photos from the seminar, and any other materials.

Wireless

Wireless access is available throughout the hotel and in all rooms.

Money

The currency in Germany is the Euro. American dollars can be exchanged at most banks. Be aware that many banks are only open in the morning from 8:30 to 12:30 and in the afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00. American ATM cards and most common credit cards can be used to withdraw money from German ATM machines.

Telephone

You can make direct calls from your room, but beware that international calls from Germany are expensive. Usually the best options are to use the internet calling service Skype (www.skype.com) or buy a pre-paid phone card. For international phone cards that are bought in the US, you are often required to find the local access number for the country from which you are calling. This can usually be done by looking on the provider's website. Please note that calling a 1-800 number from Germany is **not** free and is charged the same as making a long distance phone call. Your family and friends can call you by dialing +49 331 2722. The Reception staff will either forward the call to your room or take a message.

Fax

Faxes can be sent from and received at reception, the cost for any out-going faxes is payable upon departure. The Mercure fax number is +49 331 2720233.

Medical Care

If a medical problem should arise, the Alliance team in Potsdam will assist you in finding an appropriate doctor. **Please notify us of any medical conditions you may have that could require attention during your stay.** You should bring with you any personal prescription medicines you normally take.

Mailing Addresses

Mailing and contact information for Alliance team members and for participants during the seminar:

Mercure Hotel Potsdam City

Lange Brücke

14467 Potsdam

Deutschland

ph: +49 331 272-2

fax: +49 331 272-233

Room Reservation: +49 331 272-2419

info@mercure-hotel-potsdam.de

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact Alliance team members listed below with any questions concerning the upcoming program.

Ms. Astrid Schröder, COO, Global Citizenship Alliance

Email: aschroeder@globalcitizenshipalliance.org

Dr. Jochen Fried, President, Global Citizenship Alliance

Email: jfried@globalcitizenshipalliance.org